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JOINT INSPECTION UNIT

Actions taken by participating organizations to enhance consideration of the reports of the Unit by the respective governing bodies

Report of the Secretary-General

1. In paragraph 8 of its resolution 45/237 of 21 December 1990, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to transmit to the Assembly a report on actions taken by the participating organizations of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) to enhance consideration of the reports of the Unit by the respective governing bodies. The present report is submitted in accordance with this request and includes detailed information on measures taken in this regard by the United Nations, its subsidiary bodies and specialized agencies that participate in JIU.

I. UNITED NATIONS AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES

2. The United Nations Secretariat and all subsidiary bodies and programmes of the United Nations that have their own governing bodies have designated focal points for their relations with JIU and have developed close cooperation with JIU on various matters of mutual interest. Assistance has been rendered to JIU in carrying out studies involving their activities and comments provided to the drafts of the JIU reports. Prior to the adoption of General Assembly resolution 45/237, as a rule, JIU reports were brought to the attention of the organizations' intergovernmental machinery, including their governing bodies, and reports of particular relevance to a programme or subsidiary organization were discussed, in conjunction with the comments of

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the Secretary-General and the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) on those reports, at considerable length at the sessions of these bodies, with responsible Inspectors being present and addressing the meetings. Measures taken by particular United Nations bodies on specific recommendations of JIU are explained in the annual reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of JIU.

3. However, pursuant to paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 45/237, greater efforts were undertaken to enhance the consideration of JIU reports by the governing bodies in question. For example, an item on JIU reports is placed on the agenda of each regular session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). In the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the relevant recommendations of JIU are considered by the Main Committees of the Trade and Development Board and reviewed by the Board itself. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS) submitted to the Commission on Human Settlements at its thirteenth session its note entitled "Implementation of General Assembly resolution 45/237" which contained a brief description of the JIU reports issued during 1989-1990 and comments submitted by the Centre on those reports. The document was considered and taken note of by the Commission. All JIU reports of relevance to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) are introduced at the sessions of its Governing Council, along with the comments of the Executive Director, and are considered by that body. The secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) established a working group with the task of enhancing the effectiveness of the consideration of JIU reports and the implementation of relevant recommendations. All other United Nations offices, programmes and affiliated bodies took similar measures to comply with the terms of paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 45/237.

II. SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND RELATED ORGANIZATIONS

4. In the International Labour Office, JIU reports and related ACC comments go through the process of a double discussion. First, they are discussed at meetings of the Programme, Financial and Administrative Committee and the Operational Programmes Committee, which share responsibility for JIU reports. Then, the Governing Body itself examines the JIU reports and related ACC comments and takes decisions on the basis of its Committees' reports. In recent years, members of the Governing Body have referred to conclusions and recommendations of JIU reports even when discussing matters other than those specifically relating to JIU reports. All these procedures are considered adequate to meet the needs of the constituents.

5. The procedures in the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for dealing with JIU reports are as follows. The Programme and Finance Committees, subsidiary bodies of the FAO Council, review JIU reports and report thereon to the Council. Their reports contain references to the relevant elements of the JIU recommendations and to the comments of the Director-General of FAO and/or ACC. Then the JIU reports are considered by the FAO Council and appropriate decisions are taken.

6. At the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the JIU reports sent for action are regularly submitted to the Executive Board accompanied by comments of the Director-General as well as comments by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and ACC. The JIU reports are examined by the Special Committee of the Executive Board, whose mandate includes the consideration of questions concerning improvement in the functioning of the Organization. JIU reports concerning specific budget or finance questions are also considered by the Finance and Administrative Commission. Based on the recommendations of those subsidiary bodies, the Executive Board adopts a decision relating to the content and the recommendations of the JIU reports.

7. It is the practice of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to submit JIU reports to the ICAO Council together with the joint comments of ACC. The attention of the Council is drawn to ICAO participation in the preparation of a particular report and to the recommendations of JIU of direct interest to ICAO. When appropriate, the President of the Council refers JIU reports to subordinate bodies for examination and report to the Council. The Council may decide, as it did at the 21st meeting of its one hundred and thirty-second session, on 28 March 1991, to invite JIU to review a specific problem and to make appropriate recommendations to the Council.

8. In order to involve the governing body closely in the consideration of JIU reports, the procedure in the World Health Organization (WHO) is that all reports formally addressed to the Organization are the subject of separate agenda items at the regular sessions of the WHO Executive Board. Accordingly, individual reports are submitted by the Director-General to the Executive Board with appropriate comments on their recommendations. The WHO Executive Board is fully satisfied with this modus operandi.

9. The reports of JIU, including its annual report, are considered by the Executive Council of the Universal Postal Union (UPU), usually under the agenda item that concerns relations with the United Nations and with other international organizations. The recommendations that have been of particular interest during such considerations relate to the issues of personnel policies, post classifications and the training of personnel.

10. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) considers the reports of JIU annually at the sessions of its governing bodies, i.e., either the Congress or the Executive Council, which take action as appropriate.

11. In pursuance of the provisions of paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 45/237, the contents of the resolution were reported to the Council of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) at its sixty-sixth session. The IMO Council noted that the practice followed in IMO already met the requirements of resolution 45/237 as regards consideration of all JIU reports formally addressed to the specialized agencies. The Council also noted that JIU representatives had been present at some of its meetings in the past and that that practice would be followed again whenever required.

12. The activity reports of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), which are submitted annually to its Governing Bodies, include a section on JIU reports that reflects relevant comments by WIPO and ACC.

13. In the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), reports on activities of JIU to the Industrial Development Board are prepared by the Strategy, Policy and Planning Office and cover both administrative and substantive issues. Such reports are considered under a separate item entitled "Joint Inspection Unit", which is normally included once a year on the agenda of the Board.

14. It is the practice of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to distribute all JIU reports to the departments of the organization and to individual staff members who may be concerned directly with a particular subject of a report. A list of JIU reports is presented annually to the meeting of the Board of Governors. In the one case in the past when a JIU report dealt exclusively with the Agency, the report was discussed by the Board of Governors and the General Conference with an Inspector being present at the discussion.

III. CONCLUSION

15. Thus, the mechanism currently in place to ensure a thorough consideration of JIU reports by the governing bodies of the participating organizations consists of the following components:

(a) An agenda item entitled "Joint Inspection Unit" or, in case of some specialized agencies, a similar sub-item within an agenda item concerning relations with the United Nations and other international organizations is considered annually by the governing bodies;

(b) In most cases, prior to submission to a governing body, the reports of JIU are reviewed by relevant subordinate committees;

(c) The reports of JIU are presented to a governing body in conjunction with the comments of an executive head and ACC;

(d) A responsible Inspector is, as a rule, present during the consideration of a report by a governing body and introduces the report to it.